

REMARKS

Claims 4-6, 10-12, 16-18 and 22-24 are pending in the application. Claims 4, 10, 16, and 22 are the only independent claims. Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 15, 19 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for providing an initialed copy of the SB/08 citing the Chinese reference CN-1238875-A.

Applicants request that the SB/08 forms submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements of April 28, 2009 and August 13, 2009 also be initialed and returned. In both of those cases, the Information Disclosure Statement included an English translation of the portions of the foreign Office Action including comments relating to the relevance of the cited art. In view of the above, it is believed that the requirements for consideration of those references have been met. It is requested that an initialed copy of each SB/08 form be included with the next Office Action.

Applicants also wish to point out again that the Asgarinejad reference, previously relied upon by the Examiner, does not appear to have been made of record in this case. Applicants request that this reference be officially cited in the next Office Action on a form PTO-892 so that it will appear on the face of any patent issuing from this case.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 15, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kenji (Japanese Publication Number 2002-049711) in view of Bais et al. (United States Patent Publication Number 2003/0210683) and further in view of Notomi (U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0203347). Claims 4-6, 10-12, 16-18 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kenji in view of Bais et al. and Notomi and further in view of Ushiki (European Patent Application Publication Number 1355473). The cancellation of 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 15, 19 and 21 render their rejections moot. Applicants submit that the amended independent claims are patentable over the cited art for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 4 recites, inter alia, a gateway device for sending the message from the information terminal through the network to the storage server after the gateway device has detected a signal representing a start of transmission of the message sent from the information terminal until the gateway device detects a signal representing an end of transmission of the message sent from the information terminal. The storage server has receiving means for receiving the message sent from the gateway device through the network, and storing means for storing the message received by the receiving means. Claim 4, as amended, also now recites that the signal representing the start of transmission and the signal representing the end of transmission comprise push button audio tones from said information terminal.

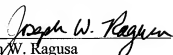
In the rejection of claim 4, it was conceded that Kenji, Bais and Notomi fail to teach the recited gateway device. Ushika was relied upon as meeting the feature of the gateway device. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, claim 4 has been amended to more clearly recite that the signal representing the start of transmission and the signal representing the end of transmission comprise push button audio tones from said information terminal. The portion of Ushika alleged to teach the signals representing the start and end of transmission fails to teach or remotely suggest that the signal representing the start of transmission and the signal representing the end of transmission comprise push button audio tones from said information terminal. For at least this reason, amended claim 4 is believed patentable over the cited art.

Amended independent claims 10, 16 and 22 recite similar features and are believed patentable for substantially similar reasons. The other claims depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons discussed above.

In view of the above, Applicants believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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